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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. During 1954, Agroprojekt, the state institute for planning and development of agriculture, worked on proposed investment plans for some of the state farms in the Olomouc, Ostrava, Brno, Ceske Budejovice, Pilsen, Karlovy Vary, and Liberec regions. The most intensive work was done in the Pilsen, Karlovy Vary, and Ceske Budejovice regions, where all of the state farms located in the border areas of these regions were involved. Agroprojekt was assisted in this work by the particular-area large farm units and by surveyors from the State Institute of Geodesy and Cartography. The task performed by Agroprojekt was part of a nationwide capital investment plan for the development of state farms. This plan was to be set up by the end of 1956 and was deemed necessary by the Ministry of Agriculture if all goals proclaimed at the CP Congress in the fall of 1953 were to be achieved.
2. Agroprojekt was not sufficiently staffed to perform the necessary work on all Czechoslovak state farms before the end of 1956. Actually, Agroprojekt was a new organization whose capabilities were not yet fully recognized by the government as of September 1954. As a matter of fact, according to Agroprojekt executives, the results of their work on this program should testify to the efficiency of Agroprojekt and determine its possible future assignments.
- each large farm unit probably worked out its own plan by itself. This was probably especially true of state farms located in the interior of the country.
3. A proposed investment plan was established for each large farm unit. Its purpose was to determine the optimum production capacity of the large farm unit, and thus serve as a basis for establishing definite detailed investment plans for each large farm unit. The proposed investment plan consisted of an evaluation of natural farming conditions, a critique of current farming

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practices, and a proposal for improving farming practices to enable the large farm unit to reach its optimum production capacity. The evaluation of natural farming conditions was prepared in the form of an analysis of ordinary natural characteristics of the acreage, e.g., amount of acreage, fertility of the soil, altitude, weather conditions, transportation possibilities, etc. On the basis of assessed natural conditions and on the basis of average general farming conditions in Czechoslovakia, e.g., quantity of fertilizers used, number and efficiency of agricultural employees, etc., the optimum production capacity, both plant and animal, of a large farm unit as a whole and each of its subordinate units was established. The critique of current farming practices and current production cited reasons for failure to achieve optimum crop yields and optimum animal production. This critique gave evaluations of the farm buildings, livestock, and other property inventory. However, the installations were evaluated only with regard to their capacity, i.e., whether or not the capacity of existing stables, barns, machinery, etc., was sufficient to meet requirements necessary for optimum production; the critique gave no information regarding repairs and necessary improvements. The critique was followed by a list of investments which were considered necessary in order for the large farm unit to achieve optimum production. This list of investments was presented in summary only, and no data giving details concerning cost, manpower, or time necessary to comply with the recommendations were included.

4. The completed proposed investment plan was to be submitted for approval by the Agroprojekt technicians concerned to a commission composed of representatives from the large farm unit, the regional trusts of state farms, and the main administration. The approved plan was to be returned to Agroprojekt for preparing detailed construction plans; however, the construction department of Agroprojekt did not have enough personnel to handle the entire program. Source did not know what other organization would work on the detailed construction plans.
5. The large farm unit concerned usually agreed with the optimum production capacity as it was established by Agroprojekt technicians. This was true because the individual large farm units did not usually have their own analyses of possible production capacity. As a matter of fact, the yearly production plans for the state farms were based on production of the previous year. This program of estimating optimum capacity was the first of its kind applied to large farm units since the Communist Régime had been established. In the border areas, the proposed investment plan would serve primarily as a basis for the development of state farms, particularly in the setting up of new departments. In the interior of the country, it would be used primarily as a basis for establishing the yearly production plans of the state farms. The general trend followed by state farms with regard to plant and animal production was not to be changed by the investment program. However, more emphasis was to be placed on using fully the capabilities of the personnel on state farms to achieve better results in agriculture as a whole, since personnel on state farms were better qualified professionally than employees in other categories of agriculture.

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only two large farm units where the proposed investment plan was completed. These were the Large Farm Unit in Jenec (N 50-05, E 14-13) and the Large Farm Unit in Doksy (N 50-34, E 14-40).

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7. The work apparently proceeded much more slowly than originally anticipated. For instance, the program at the Large Farm Unit in Tachov (N 49-48, E 12-38) was started 5 June 1954 and was to be completed by 1 September 1954. The state farm in that area had about 7,500 hectares. Of this total, about 4,400 were cultivated. The remaining acreage lay fallow and was to be taken over by the Tachov Large Farm Unit, which consisted of six departments. The program was carried out by six Agroprojekt employees, all of whom were graduate engineers in agriculture, six surveyors, and 15 surveying assistants. The surveyors and their assistants were employees of the State Institute for Geodesy and Cartography, Branch Office, Pilsen. In August, the completion date of the program was postponed until the end of October. In September, the survey was under way at only four of the six departments, and Agroprojekt headquarters in Prague urged the employees to complete work at at least three of the departments by the end of October. Proposed investment planning for the Tachov Large Farm Unit was particularly difficult. Starting in 1955, however, the Tachov Large Farm Unit was scheduled to receive money for the construction of new buildings, etc.
8. In general, the proposed investment plans were easier to establish in the interior of the country than in the border areas. This was true because ownership of acreage in the border areas involving state farms, state forests, and PS Guards, was still indefinite. In addition, general conditions prevailing in the border areas made investment planning difficult.

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